

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/057,178

Applicant(s)

LAM ET AL.

Examiner

Jon D. Epperson

Art Unit

1639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 24 April 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10 and 13 (renumbered 1 and 2).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li><li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li><li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li><li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</li><li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li><li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li><li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li><li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li></ol> |
|---|--|

**JON EPPERSON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Status of the Application***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of an after-final response, which was dated on April 24, 2007.

### ***Status of the Claims***

2. Claim 10, 13, and 16-20 were pending. Applicants canceled claims 16-20. Therefore, claims 10 and 13 are currently pending and examined on the merits.

### ***Withdrawn Rejections/Objections***

3. All outstanding rejections and/or objections are withdrawn in view of Applicants' cancellation of claims 16-20

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest Applicants' claimed method for determining the differences between the molecular interactions of two different mixtures of molecules using a third image that was created by applying a formula  $(B-A)/A$  on a pixel-by-pixel basis. The closest prior art, Tizard, teaches a method using a B-A formula, not the currently claimed B-A/A. Although Tizard adjusts the B-A image for overexposure, this is a linear transformation wherein the value of each individual pixel is reduced by a fixed amount to the desired exposure not the currently claimed non-linear transformation (e.g., see 11/15/06 Response, page 9, paragraphs 1 and 2; see also Lehman Declaration). In addition, Applicants stated that unexpected results were obtained using the B-A/A formula (e.g., see 11/15/06

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Response, pages 10 and 11, especially page 10, first full paragraph; see also Lehman Declaration, paragraph 4). Therefore, claims 10 and 13 (renumbered 1 and 2) are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Salutation***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon D Epperson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0808. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:30.

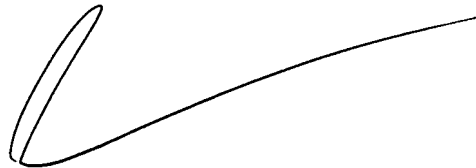
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James (Doug) Schultz can be reached on (571) 272-0763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jon D. Epperson, Ph.D.  
April 30, 2007

**JON EPPERSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.